

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (original): A microcarrier onto the surface of which a cationic compound has been immobilised via a guanidine group.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to The microcarrier of claim 1~~, which is capable of attachment of cells via charge-based interaction between the cationic compound and the cells.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to The microcarrier of claim 1 or 2~~, wherein the cationic compound provides a polycationic coating at the microcarrier surface.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to any one of the preceding claims, The microcarrier of claim 1~~, wherein the cationic compound provides a weakly basic coating at the microcarrier surface.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to any one of the preceding claims, The microcarrier of claim 1~~, wherein the cationic compound comprises one or two amino acids.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to The microcarrier of claim 5~~, wherein the cationic compound consists of arginine (Arg).

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to The microcarrier of claim 5, wherein the cationic compound consists of a dipeptide.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to The microcarrier of claim 7, wherein the dipeptide is arginine-glutamic acid (Arg-Glu) or arginine-aspartic acid (Arg-Asp).~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to any one of the preceding claims, The microcarrier of claim 1, wherein the cationic compound has been immobilised via a secondary amine to the microcarrier surface.~~

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~A microcarrier according to any one of the preceding claims, The microcarrier of claim 1, wherein the microcarrier is comprised of a cross-linked carbohydrate.~~

Claim 11 (currently amended): A cell culture support comprised of at least one microcarrier of claim 1 according to any one of the preceding claims.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of preparing a microcarrier, ~~which method comprises to contact comprising contacting a compound that comprises at least one guanidine group with an epoxide-activated substrate surface to immobilize and immobilizing the compound on the surface via the guanidine group.~~

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~A method according to The method of claim 12, wherein the compound comprises one or two amino acids.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 13, wherein the compound consists of arginine (Arg).

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 13, wherein the compound consists of a dipeptide.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 12, wherein the compound comprises one or more nucleotides.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~A method according to any one of claims 12-16, The method of claim 12,~~ wherein the substrate is a cross-linked carbohydrate.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of attachment of cells to a surface, ~~wherein comprising using~~ a cationic compound ~~comprising including~~ at least one guanidine group is used to attach cells to said surface.

Claim 20 (currently amended): ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 19, wherein the attachment is via charge-based interaction.

Claim 21 (currently amended): ~~A method according to claim 19 or 20, The method of~~ claim 19, wherein the cationic compound consists of arginine (Arg).

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~A method according to any one of claims 19-21, The method of claim 19,~~ wherein the surface is the surface of a microcarrier, membrane, cloth, slide, chip, capillary or vessel.

Claim 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for ~~localising~~ localizing cells for high throughput screening (HTS), which utilizes ~~the method of claim 19-a method as defined in claim 19-23.~~

Claim 25 (currently amended): A process of cell culture, ~~wherein the cells are cultured at comprising:~~

- (a) attaching the cells to the surfaces of one or more microcarriers coated with a cationic compound; and
- (b) culturing said cells in an environment that provides for viability; wherein said cells being are attached to the surfaces of one or more microcarriers via guanidine groups provided by the cationic coating.

Claim 26 (currently amended): ~~A process according to~~ The process of claim 25, wherein the attachment of cells is based on charge-based interaction.

Claim 27 (currently amended): ~~A process according to~~ The process of claim 25-26, wherein the cationic compound consists of arginine (Arg).

Claim 28 (currently amended): ~~A process according to claim 26 or 27, which further comprises~~ The process of claim 26, further comprising a step of harvesting viable cells from said microcarriers.

Claim 29 (currently amended): ~~A process according to claim 26 or 27, which further comprises~~ The process of claim 26, further comprising a step of using the cells for analytical and/or medical purposes.

Claim 30 (currently amended): ~~A process according to claim 25, which comprises a further~~ The process of claim 25, further comprising a step of using the cells to support culture of virus, bacteria, molds, fungi or algae.